

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method of selecting a tester design comprising:  
selecting one or more design alternatives,  
constructing a classifier for each alternative using sample data,  
construction Operating Characteristics curves for each classifier, and  
selecting a design alternative based on the Operating Characteristic curves.

10 2. The method of Claim 1 where the step of selecting a design alternative further  
comprises:  
weighting each Operating Characteristics curve using cost constraints to form a result,  
and  
15 selecting the Operating Characteristics curve with the minimal result.

3. The method of Claim 1 where classifiers for each alternative are constructed from  
sample data gathered through data acquisition.

20 4. The method of Claim 3 where data acquisition uses a factorial design when more than  
one alternative is present.

5. The method of Claim 3 where data acquisition uses a one-way layout when only one  
alternative is present.

25 6. A computer readable medium that includes executable instructions for processing  
sequence number information used in communications protocols, said computer readable  
medium comprising:  
code for selecting one or more design alternatives,  
code for constructing a classifier for each alternative using sample data,  
code for construction Operating Characteristics curves for each classifier, and  
code for selecting a design alternative based on the Operating Characteristic curves.

7. The computer readable medium of Claim 6 where the code for selecting a design alternative further comprises:

code for weighting each Operating Characteristics curve using cost constraints to form a result, and

5 code for selecting the Operating Characteristics curve with the minimal result.